

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2003

SECURING THE HOMELAND: *HELPING WASHINGTON'S STATE AND LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS AND FIRST PREVENTERS*

The Department of Homeland Security is pleased to announce the allocation of \$16,516,007 million dollars to Washington from the FY '04 Budget as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), to help the Seattle urban area enhance its overall security and preparedness levels to prevent, respond and recover from acts of terrorism.

This grant is being made available to the state as part of a \$725 million dollar program for grants to urban areas within the United States. These funds are available in addition to the nearly \$800 million that the Department's Office for Domestic Preparedness awarded during FY '03 for urban areas.

The urban areas are chosen based on a formula that takes into account factors including critical infrastructure, population density and credible threat intelligence information. Funding allocations among the cities, contiguous counties and mutual aid partners will be based on an urban area assessment and strategic plan. Eighty percent of the funds allocated to the state under this program must be awarded to the designated cities and contiguous counties within the urban area based on the strategic plan. The state may use the remaining twenty percent for further security enhancements within the urban area.

In addition to the formula grant, \$800,000 has been allocated in the form of grants through the State for the Seattle Sound Transit to help enhance the security of its assets and passengers.

The transit systems were chosen based upon the number of annual riders and overall track mileage. Allowable uses of funds would include installation of physical barricades, area monitoring systems such as; video surveillance, motion detectors, thermal/IR imagery and chemical/radiological material detection systems, integrated communications systems and prevention planning, training and exercises. If not already completed, each transit system would be required to conduct an assessment and preparedness plan on which to base resource allocations.

"The Department of Homeland Security is pleased to be able to build upon the Administration's vision to enhance security capabilities from the ground up and to form strong regional partnerships to create a foundation of shared leadership and shared responsibility," said Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge. "The funds will go to the designated states, which will then work with counties and cities to form regions that will work together through mutual aid agreements, interoperable communications, statewide intelligence centers and community and citizen participation. Our goal is to ensure that all of these necessary elements are communicating and coordinating to prevent a crisis and to be ready if one occurs."

Past Urban Area Security Funding for Washington

- \$29,387,668 to the Seattle urban area from the FY '03 Budget as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant program
- \$6,765,724 to the state of Washington from the FY '03 Supplemental Budget as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative Port Security Grant program
- \$1,098,027 to the transit agencies in Washington from the FY '03 Supplemental Budget as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative Transit Security Grant Program